

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (cancelled)

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) A plasmid containing the isolated DNA according to any one of claims ~~13 or 23-26~~ 24-25.

15. (previously presented) A host cell transformed with a plasmid according to claim 14.

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (original) An isolated DNA which encodes a protein having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

25. (original) An isolated DNA having the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

26. (cancelled)

27. (new) A method of producing a peptide having pro-MMP2 activation activity, which comprises incubating the host cell of claim 15 under suitable conditions for growth and expressing the encoded protein of said DNA.